
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

TEXT: *Philippians 3:7-21 KJV*

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (11) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (12) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (15) Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (16) Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. (17) Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (18) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (19) Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (20) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (21) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

INTRO: *Live Your Citizen Life*

Thankful to be born in america → I am not proud of what America has become → ***Jesus Christ haters***, ***Abortion on demand*** to ease the

conscience of immoral people, ***homosexuality, the downward spiral of morality*** … ***tyranny of the government,***

America is destined to be the modern version of Sodom and Gomorrah and it looks like our president and the Supreme Court have put US on the fast track to get there… ***True Christianity is under attack while tolerance and acceptance is generously poured out on Islam and non-Christian religions.***

I. *As True Believers in Christ*

But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven,

Acts 22:24-30 KJV

The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. (25) And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, ***Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?*** (26) When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. (27) Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, ***art thou a Roman***? He said, ***Yea***. (28) And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. (29) Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and ***the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him***. (30) On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

Philippians 3:20-21 AMP

But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior, (21) Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform

to and be like the body of His glory and majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself.

Some of us need to reprogram our brains to understand that as ***True Believers in Christ*** we are ***Citizens of Heaven!!!!!***

II. *Once Upon a Time it Could Be Said of America That We were a Christian Nation*

Psalms 33:10-17 KJV

The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. (11) The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. (12) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (13) The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. (14) From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. (15) He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. (16) There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. (17) An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

We experienced many blessings because the majority of our citizens followed Christ

III. *Even Our Churches Have Given their Pulpits to become man honoring –*

God does not share His Platform with the ungodly!

1 Kings 18:30-32 KJV

And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And **he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down**. (31) And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: (32) And with the stones **he built an altar in the name of the LORD:** and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

We gather in His Name to honor Him and …

We will not share God's platform with any form of man honoring idolatry…

I have nothing against churches celebrating Freedom or the ones who gave their lives to purchase that Freedom… but I do not believe that even they deserve to take away from the worship of our God!

There are churches today who will spend the majority of there "worship time" singing about a nation who has dishonored God!

They will fill their parking lots with American flags – fill their sanctuary with flags and even cover up and hide the Cross which is the truest symbol of our freedom!!!!

Patriotism and Politics do not mix with a God honoring… Christ centered… Holy Spirit led Worship Service of the

One True Living God Sunday morning designated hour of Worship!

Exodus 20:1-6 KJV

And God spake all these words, saying, (2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (3) ***Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*** (4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: (5) ***Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them***: ***for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me***; (6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

John MacAuthor says… "All the gods of the nations are demons."

Whatever system you want to use, demons will move in and take over. ***The Old Testament simply says this: "All the gods of the nations are demons."*** Whatever you wanna worship, a demon will move in and capture you. If people in wild places of the world keep bowing down to sticks and stones… How can they worship a rock year after year after year? You wanna know why? Because sometimes when they ask that rock for things, they happen. Why? Because if the demon can hold that man captive to the rock, he'll respond to the man's worship of the rock, do enough supernatural things to hold him captive to the rock. Now, if a guy wants to put his trust in the zodiac, demons will simply use that. They'll make enough things come true so the man's a believer in the zodiac. That captures him apart from the truthand holds him in bondage to an evil system.

All the gods of the heathen are demons. That's a ***comprehensive*** statement in the Old Testament. All of them. And things really happen. They really happen. They really capture people. Demons take over, and they do supernatural things.

Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) ***For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my***

throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) ***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High***. (15) **Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

IV. *Six Things God Hates*

Proverbs 6:16-23 KJV

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (17) ***A proud look, a lying tongue***, and ***hands that shed innocent blood***, (18) ***An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief***, (19) ***A false witness that speaketh lies***, and ***he that soweth discord among brethren***. (20) My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: (21) Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. (22) When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. (23) For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: